

## TARIFF ACTION MEMORANDUM

File No.: TA491-1

Date: December 3, 2020

Date Filed: November 13, 2020

Statutory End Date: December 28, 2020

Utility: Alaska Electric Light & Power Company

Description: Quarterly Dual-Fuel Rates Update

Alaska Electric Light & Power Company submits its quarterly update to its dual-fuel rates for the period beginning January 1, 2021.

### Tariff Recommendations:

The Commission should:

- 1) Approve Tariff Sheet Nos. 126 and 146, filed November 13, 2020, by Alaska Electric Light & Power Company with TA491-1, as shown on the attached side-by-side tariff sheets (Appendix 1). The effective date of the tariff sheets should be January 1, 2021.
- 2) Grant the request by Alaska Electric Light & Power Company to waive the public notice of TA491-1 allowed under 3 AAC 48.280.

**Reason(s) for the above-indicated recommendations:** See attached memorandum.

Signed: Steven Jones

Steven Jones

Title: Utility Tariff Analyst

Commission decision regarding these recommendations:

	<u>Date (if different from 12/3/2020)</u>	<u>I CONCUR</u>	<u>I DO NOT CONCUR</u>	<u>I WILL WRITE A DISSENTING STATEMENT*</u>
Pickett		<u>RMP</u>		
McAlpine		<u>SM</u> SM		
Scott		<u>AGS</u> AGS		
Sullivan		<u>DS</u> DS		
Wilson		<u>JW</u> JW		

\* If this column is initialed, Staff will contact the Commissioner for the statement; otherwise, the dissent will simply be noted at the close of the By Direction letter or order.

STATE OF ALASKA  
**The Regulatory Commission of Alaska**  
701 West 8<sup>th</sup> Ave., Suite 300  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3469

**M E M O R A N D U M**

To: Robert M. Pickett, Chairman  
Stephen McAlpine  
Antony Scott  
Daniel A. Sullivan  
Janis W. Wilson

Date: December 3, 2020

From: Steven Jones, Utility Tariff Analyst

Subject: TA491-1 Alaska Electric Light & Power Company  
Quarterly Dual-Fuel Rates Update

**STATEMENT OF CASE**

Alaska Electric Light & Power Company (AEL&P) submits its quarterly update to its dual-fuel rates for the period beginning January 1, 2021.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Commission should:

- 1) Approve Tariff Sheet Nos. 126 and 146, filed November 13, 2020, by AEL&P with TA491-1, as shown on the attached side-by-side tariff sheets (Appendix 1). The effective date of the tariff sheets should be January 1, 2021.
- 2) Grant the request by AEL&P to waive the public notice of TA491-1 allowed under 3 AAC 48.280.

**BACKGROUND**

On October 15, 1987, AEL&P filed TA176-1 proposing to implement a variable rate schedule for interruptible customers with alternative heating systems in order to encourage the optimum utilization of interruptible electrical energy from the Snettisham Hydroelectric Project. AEL&P stated that interruptible customers were burning fuel oil at the same time that surplus hydroelectric energy was available. AEL&P proposed that the variable rate would be set at 90% of the estimated equivalent cost of heating with No. 2 fuel oil, and it would be adjusted quarterly. Based on the recommendations of Commission Staff, the Commission suspended TA176-1 and approved the variable rate schedule on an interim basis to allow AEL&P to gain experience with marketing surplus hydropower. The Commission also required AEL&P to refund any revenues from participating customers that exceeded the previously approved cost-of-service for those customers on an ongoing basis through AEL&P's Cost of Power Adjustment (COPA). Finally, the Commission required AEL&P to file a report detailing the advantages and

disadvantages of abandoning a cost-based rate structure for interruptible customers in favor of value-of-service pricing with revenue and cost data associated with AEL&P's sales during the interim period.<sup>1</sup>

In its report to the Commission, AEL&P included eight advantages of the proposed variable rate structure. Based on the Commission's review of AEL&P's report, the Commission approved TA176-1 on a permanent basis.<sup>2</sup> As a result, AEL&P's Rate Schedule Nos. 25 (Tariff Sheet Nos. 122 – 127) and 95 (Tariff Sheet Nos. 142 – 148) were established for interruptible, dual-fuel service rates for space heating. Rate Schedule No. 25 is available to large commercial customers and Schedule No. 95 is available to residential and small commercial customers. Both Rate Schedule Nos. 25 and 95 are subject to quarterly adjustments in order to remain competitive with the average price of No. 2 fuel oil.<sup>3</sup> The current rates can be found on Tariff Sheet Nos. 126 and 146 for Schedule Nos. 25 and 95, respectively.

Staff reviewed the advantages AEL&P listed in its report to the Commission and believes the most relevant of the eight original advantages listed are (1) to sell surplus hydroelectric power that would otherwise be lost by spillage from reservoirs, (2) to conserve electricity during hydroelectric shortages when marginal loads are met with more expensive diesel generation, and (3) allowing AEL&P customers to save money on their energy bills.<sup>4</sup>

AEL&P now submits TA491-1, its quarterly update for its dual-fuel rates, effective January 1, 2021. AEL&P reports that the number of customers capable of taking service under Rate Schedule No. 25 is 2, and that the number of customers capable of taking service under Rate Schedule No. 95 is 22.<sup>5</sup>

## ANALYSIS

### ***Schedule Nos. 25 and 95***

The calculation for the rate for interruptible energy depends on whether or not the price of fuel oil exceeds \$1.50 per gallon. When the price of fuel oil is below \$1.50 per gallon, the rate is set at 90% of the equivalent price of No. 2 fuel oil.<sup>6</sup> In the event that the price of fuel oil exceeds \$1.50 per gallon, the following formula is used to calculate the price of interruptible energy:<sup>7</sup>

$$\text{Cents per kWh} = 3.18 * \$ \text{ per gallon of No. 2 Fuel Oil}$$

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<sup>1</sup> See Order No. U-87-057(1), issued August 5, 1987. Staff notes that the Commission issued Order No. U-87-057(2) on December 2, 1987, granting AEL&P's request to extend the deadline for submission of the report.

<sup>2</sup> See Order No. U-87-057(3), issued April 13, 1988, at page 4.

<sup>3</sup> See Tariff Sheet Nos. 123 and 143, effective October 1, 2011.

<sup>4</sup> See Order No. U-87-057(3), issued April 13, 1988, at page 3.

<sup>5</sup> See tariff advice letter for TA491-1, at page 2.

<sup>6</sup> See Tariff Sheet Nos. 123 and 143, effective October 1, 2011. Staff notes that Tariff Sheet Nos. 124, 125, 144, and 145 display the retail rate equivalent to cost per gallon using the factors described in AEL&P's methodology.

<sup>7</sup> See Tariff Sheet Nos. 126 and 146, effective October 1, 2020, at Section 7.

Each quarter AEL&P submits documentation to support the average price of fuel oil for the preceding quarter, as well as updated tariff sheets showing the rate per kWh.<sup>8</sup> This support includes invoices to document the average price of fuel oil purchased by both the State of Alaska in Juneau and the City and Borough of Juneau.

Staff reviewed the documentation submitted by AEL&P and believes it supports the average price of fuel oil purchased by both the State of Alaska (for its Juneau offices) and the City and Borough of Juneau for the period of July 16, 2020, through October 15, 2020. Staff notes that the price of fuel oil currently exceeds \$1.50 per gallon for the State of Alaska, but not for CBJ; therefore, the lessor of the two is used to calculate the rates.

#### Schedule No. 25 Rate Increase (Tariff Sheet No. 126)

The rate for large commercial customers under Schedule No. 25 is based on the average price of heating oil purchased during the previous quarter by the City and Borough of Juneau, unless the purchased price of No. 2 fuel oil by the State of Alaska's (for its Juneau offices) is lower. In the event that the State of Alaska's (for its Juneau offices) price of fuel is lower, the lowest price of fuel will be used to calculate the rate. In no case will the Schedule No. 25 rate be lower than 1.41 cents per kWh.<sup>9</sup>

With TA491-1, the City and Borough of Juneau's average price of fuel is \$1.43 per gallon, and the average price of fuel for the State of Alaska's Juneau offices is \$1.53 per gallon.<sup>10</sup> Therefore, the lower price of fuel of \$1.43 per gallon was used to calculate the rate. The rate per kWh for Schedule No. 25 increased from 3.02 cents per kWh to 4.55 cents per kWh<sup>11</sup> as a result of the increase in the average price of fuel from \$0.95 per gallon to \$1.43 per gallon.<sup>12</sup>

#### Schedule No. 95 Rate Increase (Tariff Sheet No. 146)

The rate for residential and small commercial customers under Schedule No. 95 is based on the average price of No. 2 fuel oil paid by the State of Alaska's Juneau offices during the previous quarter. In no case will Schedule No. 95 rate be lower than 1.41 cents per kWh.<sup>13</sup>

The rate per kWh for Schedule No. 95 increased from 4.13 cents per kWh to 4.87 cents per kWh,<sup>14</sup> the result of the average price of fuel increasing from \$1.50 per gallon to \$1.53 per gallon.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> See tariff advice letter for TA491-1, at page 1.

<sup>9</sup> See Tariff Sheet No. 123, effective October 1, 2011.

<sup>10</sup> See tariff advice letter for TA491-1, at page 5.

<sup>11</sup> See side by side Tariff Sheet No. 126, attached as Appendix-1, at section 9.

<sup>12</sup> See TA488-1, at page 5, for the \$0.95 per gallon, and see TA491-1, at page 5, for the \$1.43 per gallon.

<sup>13</sup> See Tariff Sheet No. 143, effective October 1, 2011.

<sup>14</sup> See side by side Tariff Sheet No. 146, attached as Appendix 1, at section 9.

<sup>15</sup> See TA488-1, at page 5, for the \$1.50 per gallon, and see TA491-1, at page 5, for the \$1.53 per gallon.

### Dual Fuel Rate Cap

According to AEL&P's tariff, the rates under Schedule Nos. 25 and 95 will be capped if the rates exceed 90% of the corresponding seasonal general residential rate energy charge per kWh or 10.41 cents per kWh during peak season<sup>16</sup> and 8.56 cents per kWh during off-peak season.<sup>17</sup> The proposed rates for Schedule Nos. 25 and 95 in TA491-1 are below the 10.41 cents per kWh rate cap for peak season (November 1 through May 31) and 8.56 cents per kWh for off-peak season (June 1 through October 31). Therefore, the proposed rates for Schedule Nos. 25 and 95 do not need to be capped at 90% of the seasonal residential energy rate.

### Availability of Surplus Power

When surplus power is not available, customers receiving electric service under Schedule Nos. 25 and 95 are interrupted. In the event that a customer utilizes interruptible energy when it is considered not to be available, it will be provided at the penalty rate. The penalty rate is equal to 1.5 times the Schedule No. 10 Peak Season kWh energy charge plus the COPA.<sup>18</sup> Customers who choose not to be interrupted forfeit the service location's ability to participate in the dual fuel program from that time forward unless a true emergency occurs and the customer needs their electric heat.<sup>19</sup> According to AEL&P, the company anticipates that surplus energy will be available for sales to dual fuel customers for the period this filing will be in effect.<sup>20</sup>

### Public Notice Requirement

AEL&P requested that the Commission use its discretion under 3 AAC 48.280 and not require the public noticing of TA491-1.<sup>21</sup>

3 AAC 48.280 provides that the Commission may prescribe, on a case-by-case basis, one or more appropriate additional means by which a tariff filing must be noticed to the public, including publication in one or more newspaper publication. AEL&P established its variable fuel rate schedule on August 5, 1987.<sup>22</sup> Revisions to AEL&P's variable fuel rate filings have historically not been noticed to the public. This type of filing is made on a quarterly basis and is similar to COPA filings, which are not noticed by the Commission.

Under 3 AAC 52.504(d), if "an electric utility seeks, outside of a general rate case, a change to its COPA methodology, a change to a COPA cost element, or a change to its COPA that the Commission considers to be of significant interest to the public, the Commission will require notice to the public in a form that the Commission considers

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<sup>16</sup> General residential rate from Schedule No. 10 Peak Season is 11.57 cents per kWh.  $11.57 * 90\% = 10.41$  cents per kWh.

<sup>17</sup> General residential rate from Schedule No. 10 Off-Peak is 9.51 cents per kWh.  $9.51 * 90\% = 8.56$  cents per kWh.

<sup>18</sup> See AEL&P Tariff Sheet Nos. 126 and 146, effective October 1, 2020.

<sup>19</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>20</sup> See tariff advice letter for TA491-1, at page 2.

<sup>21</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>22</sup> See Order No. U-87-057(1), issued August 5, 1987.

sufficient for the particular changes proposed." Otherwise, routine quarterly filings made under 3 AAC 52.504 have not been noticed. This contingency on the issuance of a public notice has historically been applied to AEL&P's variable fuel rate filings. If AEL&P proposes a new component to the variable fuel rate methodology, a new cost element, or any change the Commission considers significant, the Commission requires the filing to be noticed to the public.

TA491-1 does not include any change to AEL&P's variable fuel rate methodology or propose a new cost element; therefore, Staff recommends that the Commission grant AEL&P's request to waive publication notice for TA491-1.

### CONCLUSION

With TA491-1, AEL&P requests approval of its quarterly update for its dual-fuel rates on Schedule Nos. 25 and 95 for the period beginning January 1, 2021, and requests that the Commission use its discretion under 3 AAC 48.280 and not require public notification of the tariff advice filing. After reviewing the information submitted in support of TA491-1, Staff has verified the proposed rates were calculated accurately using AEL&P's approved methodology, the proper support was filed, and the tariff sheets are correct.<sup>23</sup> Therefore, Staff recommends the Commission grant the request by AEL&P to not publicly notice the tariff advice filing and approve Tariff Sheet Nos. 126 and 146, filed November 13, 2020, by AEL&P with TA491-1. The effective date of the tariff sheets should be January 1, 2021.

**Signature:** 

**Email:** bob.pickett@alaska.gov

**Signature:**   
Stephen McAlpine (Dec 2, 2020 17:29 AKST)

**Email:** stephen.mcalpine@alaska.gov

**Signature:** 

**Email:** antony.scott@alaska.gov

**Signature:**   
Dan Sullivan (Dec 3, 2020 09:32 AKST)

**Email:** daniel.sullivan@alaska.gov

**Signature:** 

**Email:** janis.wilson@alaska.gov

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<sup>23</sup> Side-by-side tariff sheets are attached as Appendix 1.

RCA No. 1

141st

Sheet No. 126

Canceling

140th

Sheet No. 126

**RECEIVED****August 13, 2020**STATE OF ALASKA  
REGULATORY COMMISSION OF ALASKA

Alaska Electric Light and Power Company

Regulatory Commission  
of AlaskaSchedule No. 25 (Continued)  
Large Commercial - Interruptible Electric Heat

Rate (Continued):

7. In the event the price of fuel oil exceeds \$1.50 per gallon, the price of interruptible energy will be computed as follows:  
Cents/KWH =  $3.18 \times \text{\$/gallon of No. 2 Fuel Oil}$
8. In the event the customer must utilize interruptible energy when it is considered not to be available it will be provided at the penalty rate.
9. The rate charged will be 3.02 cents per KWH for billings rendered on and after October 1, 2020. R  
T

Penalty Rate:

The penalty rate will be equal to 1.5 times the Schedule 10 Peak Season KWH energy charge plus Cost of Power Adjustment.

Penalty rates will be in effect when the Company's equipment has operated to provide a switching signal to switch off the customer's controlled service loads during winter peak seasons, hydro shortages or emergencies.

If the customer location chooses not to be interrupted they will forfeit the service locations ability to participate from that time forward, unless a true emergency occurs and the customer needs their electric heat. During this period the customer will pay the penalty rate until repairs are completed.

Control Criteria:

Electrical loads are subject to interruption as deemed necessary by the Company. Typical conditions could include peak loading, hydro shortages or other emergencies.

Equipment Supplied:

AELP will supply the necessary metering and control equipment. Wiring by the customer shall be such that the meter and associated controlling devices are separate and located adjacent to each other.

Tariff Advice No. 488-1 Effective October 1, 2020Issued by Alaska Electric Light and Power CompanyBy [Signature] Title Chief Financial Officer

RCA No. 1

142nd

Sheet No. 126

Canceling

141st

Sheet No. 126



Alaska Electric Light and Power Company

Regulatory Commission  
of AlaskaSchedule No. 25 (Continued)  
Large Commercial - Interruptible Electric Heat

Rate (Continued):

7. In the event the price of fuel oil exceeds \$1.50 per gallon, the price of interruptible energy will be computed as follows:  
Cents/KWH =  $3.18 \times \text{\$/gallon of No. 2 Fuel Oil}$
8. In the event the customer must utilize interruptible energy when it is considered not to be available it will be provided at the penalty rate.
9. The rate charged will be 4.55 cents per KWH for billings rendered on and after January 1, 2021. I  
T

Penalty Rate:

The penalty rate will be equal to 1.5 times the Schedule 10 Peak Season KWH energy charge plus Cost of Power Adjustment.

Penalty rates will be in effect when the Company's equipment has operated to provide a switching signal to switch off the customer's controlled service loads during winter peak seasons, hydro shortages or emergencies.

If the customer location chooses not to be interrupted they will forfeit the service locations ability to participate from that time forward, unless a true emergency occurs and the customer needs their electric heat. During this period the customer will pay the penalty rate until repairs are completed.

Control Criteria:

Electrical loads are subject to interruption as deemed necessary by the Company. Typical conditions could include peak loading, hydro shortages or other emergencies.

Equipment Supplied:

AELP will supply the necessary metering and control equipment. Wiring by the customer shall be such that the meter and associated controlling devices are separate and located adjacent to each other.

Tariff Advice No. 491-1 Effective January 1, 2021Issued by Alaska Electric Light and Power CompanyBy [Signature] Title Chief Financial Officer

RCA No. 1 141st Sheet No. 146  
Canceling 140th Sheet No. 146

RECEIVED  
August 13, 2020

STATE OF ALASKA  
REGULATORY COMMISSION OF ALASKA

Alaska Electric Light and Power Company

Regulatory Commission  
of Alaska

Schedule No. 95 (Continued)  
Controlled Service Interruptible Load  
Less than 100 KW Capacity

Rate (Continued):

7. In the event the price of fuel oil exceeds \$1.50 per gallon, the price of interruptible energy will be computed as follows:  
  
Cents/KWH = 3.18 X \$/gallon of No. 2 Fuel Oil
8. In the event the customer must utilize interruptible energy when it is considered not to be available it will be provided at the penalty rate.
9. The rate charged will be 4.13 cents per KWH for billings rendered on and after October 1, 2020. R T

Penalty Rate:

The penalty rate will be equal to 1.5 times the Schedule 10 Peak Season KWH energy charge plus Cost of Power Adjustment.

Penalty rates will be in effect when the Company's equipment has operated to provide a switching signal to switch off the customer's controlled service loads during winter peak seasons, hydro shortages or emergencies.

If the customer location chooses not to be interrupted they will forfeit the service locations ability to participate from that time forward, unless a true emergency occurs and the customer needs their electric heat. During this period the customer will pay the penalty rate until repairs are completed.

Control Criteria:

Electrical loads are subject to interruption as deemed necessary by the Company. Typical conditions could include peak loading conditions, hydro shortages, and other emergencies.

Equipment Supplied:

AELP will supply the necessary metering and control equipment. Wiring by the customer shall be such that the meter and associated controlling devices are separate and located adjacent to each other.

Tariff Advice No. 488-1 Effective October 1, 2020

Issued by Alaska Electric Light and Power Company

By [Signature] Title Chief Financial Officer

RCA No. 1 142nd Sheet No. 146  
Canceling 141st Sheet No. 146

TARIFF SECTION  
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NOV 13  
2020  
RCA

Alaska Electric Light and Power Company

Regulatory Commission  
of Alaska

Schedule No. 95 (Continued)  
Controlled Service Interruptible Load  
Less than 100 KW Capacity

Rate (Continued):

7. In the event the price of fuel oil exceeds \$1.50 per gallon, the price of interruptible energy will be computed as follows:  
  
Cents/KWH = 3.18 X \$/gallon of No. 2 Fuel Oil
8. In the event the customer must utilize interruptible energy when it is considered not to be available it will be provided at the penalty rate.
9. The rate charged will be 4.87 cents per KWH for billings rendered on and after January 1, 2021. I T

Penalty Rate:

The penalty rate will be equal to 1.5 times the Schedule 10 Peak Season KWH energy charge plus Cost of Power Adjustment.

Penalty rates will be in effect when the Company's equipment has operated to provide a switching signal to switch off the customer's controlled service loads during winter peak seasons, hydro shortages or emergencies.

If the customer location chooses not to be interrupted they will forfeit the service locations ability to participate from that time forward, unless a true emergency occurs and the customer needs their electric heat. During this period the customer will pay the penalty rate until repairs are completed.

Control Criteria:

Electrical loads are subject to interruption as deemed necessary by the Company. Typical conditions could include peak loading conditions, hydro shortages, and other emergencies.

Equipment Supplied:

AELP will supply the necessary metering and control equipment. Wiring by the customer shall be such that the meter and associated controlling devices are separate and located adjacent to each other.

Tariff Advice No. 491-1 Effective January 1, 2021

Issued by Alaska Electric Light and Power Company

By [Signature] Title Chief Financial Officer